

Congressman Ryan Supports the DISCLOSE Act

(Washington, DC) - Today, Congressman Ryan (OH-17) voted for the bipartisan DISCLOSE Act to prevent corporate interests from drowning out the voice of the American people in elections.

The bill will also prevent government contractors and TARP recipients from making political expenditures, and stop U.S. corporations that are controlled by foreign governments from utilizing secret funds to influence elections.

“Free and open elections are the centerpiece of American politics,” stated Congressman Ryan. “Our citizens deserve to know who is influencing our nation’s elections. This is the most critical piece of election legislation since McCain-Feingold. Each vote counts – the DISCLOSE Act puts power back into the hands of the average citizen. By enforcing transparency, Congress is putting the needs of everyday Americans – not special interests – back at the center of our democracy.”

The DISCLOSE Act, H.R. 5175, requires corporations, organizations, and special interest groups to stand by their political advertising just like a candidate for office does. It will stop Wall Street, Big Oil, and U.S. corporations controlled by foreign – or even hostile – governments from secretly manipulating elections by funneling money to fly-by-night front groups that run last-minute attack ads and other anonymous election advertisements. CEOs will need to identify themselves in their advertisements, and corporations and organizations will be required to disclose their political expenditures. The bill also prohibits entities that receive taxpayer money – such as large government contractors and corporations receiving TARP funds – from turning around and spending that money to influence elections.

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